

October 1, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45*

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction strongly supports the nomination of Julie Tritt Schell to serve as a school representative on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Ms. Tritt Schell previously served as a USAC Board member with her term ending in December 2015. Because of this past service, she is very knowledgeable with how USAC operates and the key role the USAC Board has in overseeing the E-rate and the other three universal service programs.

We believe that Ms. Tritt Schell is uniquely qualified to serve on the board. As the Pennsylvania State E-rate Coordinator for over twenty years, she assists that state's schools and libraries by providing extensive E-rate training and outreach. With her years of experience as a day-to-day E-rate practitioner Julie has a comprehensive knowledge of the E-rate program which very few people nationwide can match. This experience enables her to thoroughly understand the program's complexity and how USAC's administration of the program and its decisions impacts our schools and libraries.

From the national perspective Julie serves as Co-Chair of the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA) which includes E-rate representatives from 46 states. She is an active participant in SECA activities and fellow members often ask her advice on difficult program issues. As part of her SECA responsibilities Julie is often a key contributor in drafting comments to the Commission on improving all aspects of the E-rate program. In addition, she often represents SECA in ex parte meetings with FCC staff.

We very much think the USAC Board—and more specifically the Schools and Libraries Committee—needs a person who has direct, extensive experience with the E-rate program. And equally important is that the board needs a member who will actively contribute to board and committee discussions and decisions. Ms. Tritt Schell meets these key requirements and thus we are pleased to nominate Julie to serve on the USAC Board.

Sincerely,



Kurt J. Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent  
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